

[3 August, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Ms. Rathi Menon filed two separate cases in Railway Claims Tribunal/Ernakulam for compensation. Railway Claims Tribunal/Ernakulam awarded Rs. 4 lakhs and Rs. 2 lakhs separately, in favour of the claimant on 15-6-98. Enhanced compensation came into force with effect from 1-11-1997 only. As the above incident occurred prior to 1-11-1997, the Railway had filed appeal before the High Court of Kerala. Taking the above stipulation into consideration, the High Court awarded an amount of Rs. 3,00,000/- only. The Supreme Court upheld the compensation of Rs. 6 lakhs awarded by the Railway Claims Tribunal/Ernakulam after Special Leave Petition was filed by the victim. Accordingly, the decree passed by the Supreme Court was satisfied on 7.6.2001.

Phasing out subsidies on rail fares

1491. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to change the existing system of tariff setting to phase out subsidies on passenger fares;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Rakesh Mohan Committee has made recommendations in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) Railways incur losses in providing certain passenger services on social consideration. Indian Railways do not receive any subsidy on this account. Rationalisation of passenger fares to reduce the losses is a continuous process.

(d) to (f) The Rakesh Mohan Committee has so far not submitted the final report.